

HA-1267

Asbury M.E. Church  
Asbury Road  
Churchville, Maryland 21028

The Asbury M.E. Church was known as "Big Asbury", since it was the only church for blacks when it was organized in 1838. The ground for the church was given by Nathan Cooper, who acquired it from Malinda Cooper and Mary A. Brown, two slaves from Peach Bottom, Pennsylvania.

The one-story, gable-roofed frame structure dates from 1881; the present church was dedicated on June 8, 1924.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Asbury M.E. Church

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

West side of Asbury Rd., north of Edwards Road

CITY, TOWN

Churchville,

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

21028

COUNTY

Harford

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☒ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

c/o Trustees of Asbury M.E. Church

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Asbury Road

CITY, TOWN

Churchville,

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21028

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harford County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

40 S. Main St.

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air,

STATE

Maryland 21014

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

**CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

Located on the west side of Asbury Road, approximately halfway between the intersection with Edwards Lane and the intersection with Churchville Road (Md. Rte. 22) are two frame churches belonging to the Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church.

To the north, the one story, gable-roofed structure, three bays by three bays, was built in 1883. Covered in clapboard, the building has 6/6 sash windows and an entrance in the center bay of the south end. The double-leafed door has six panels in each leaf and a transom.

The building to the south, constructed in 1924, is of similar configuration, but has a projecting two-story, hip-roofed tower on the southeast corner and windows with pointed arches. Covered in aluminum siding, this structure with a gable roof is three bays long and two bays wide, with additions on the west end and north side. On the east end is a brick exterior chimney. Windows have miter arches with curved upper muntins.

The entrance is in the east side of the tower. The second story of the tower has a diamond-shaped window at the flared base and two louvered openings in each side. The east end of the main structure has one window in the first story and a round window in the gable.

The cemetery is west of the 1883 structure.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Asbury M. E. Church claims to have been the only Negro Church in Harford County.

Asbury Church was organized in 1838 on ground given by Nathan Cooper. He apparently procured this property from Malinda Cooper and her sister Mrs. Mary A. Brown, who were sold as slaves from Peach Bottom, Pa. to a family in St. Mary's County. They then moved to Harford County where this property was given to them. Thus, according to church records, this lot has been in the hands of Negroes for more than 150 years.

The church was known as "Big Asbury", since it was the only church for blacks in Harford County.

(It is not clear when the Gunpowder Meeting House became a meeting place for a Negro Methodist Congregation in the Edgewood-Magnolia area. Called "Gunpowder Station of the Methodist Church of Magnolia" or "Old Presbury", it served as a church and school until 19.)

It is unclear when the first building of Asbury M.E. Church was constructed, but Wilmore Hopkins is said to have been the builder. The first members were: Nathan Cooper, Sr., Shadrack Johnson, Sr., Nathan Cooper, Sr., Edward Cooper, Harry Clark, James Chambers, Julia A. Willis, and Emily Johnson.

The first ministers of Asbury Church were white: Rev. Taylor, Rev. Gambol, Rev. Veriton, Rev. Wealthy, and Rev. Gwynn. In 1864, after the organization of the Washington Annual Conference, Bishop Levi Scott sent Asbury M.E. Church its first black ministers, Rev. Henry Matthews (1864-1866) and Rev. Joseph Henry (1866-1888).

Most preachers served two year terms: Rev. Stephen Tasco, 1868-1870; Rev. John B. Snowden, 1870-1872; Rev. Daniel Johnson, 1872-1875; Rev. Daniel Aquilla, 1875-1878; Rev. Samuel Brown, who was credited with 50 conversions between 1881 and 1884; Rev. A.D. Valentine, who started the foundation of a new church (still standing), 1881-1884; Rev. W. H. Brooks, 1887-1892; Rev. John H. Brice, who organized the Cooper's Chapter Epworth League No. 10195, 1892-1894; Rev. L. W. Briggs, 1894-1897; Rev. W. H. Jones, 1897-1902; Rev. J.C. Love, 1902-1903; Rev. George A. Davis, 1903-1907; Rev. J.T. Owings, 1907-1912; Rev. J. L. Brown, during whose tenure (1912-1917) the parsonage was built; Dr. D.L. Washington, 1917-1922; and Rev. Charles E. Jones, who purchased the lot for the present church, dedicated on June 8, 1924, and served until 1928.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Centennial souvenir and Program of the Asbury M.E. Church, 1838-1938

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Natalie Shivers, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Harford County Historic District Commission

DATE

July, 1979

STREET &amp; NUMBER

45 S. Main St.

TELEPHONE

301-879-2000 ext. 207

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air,

STATE

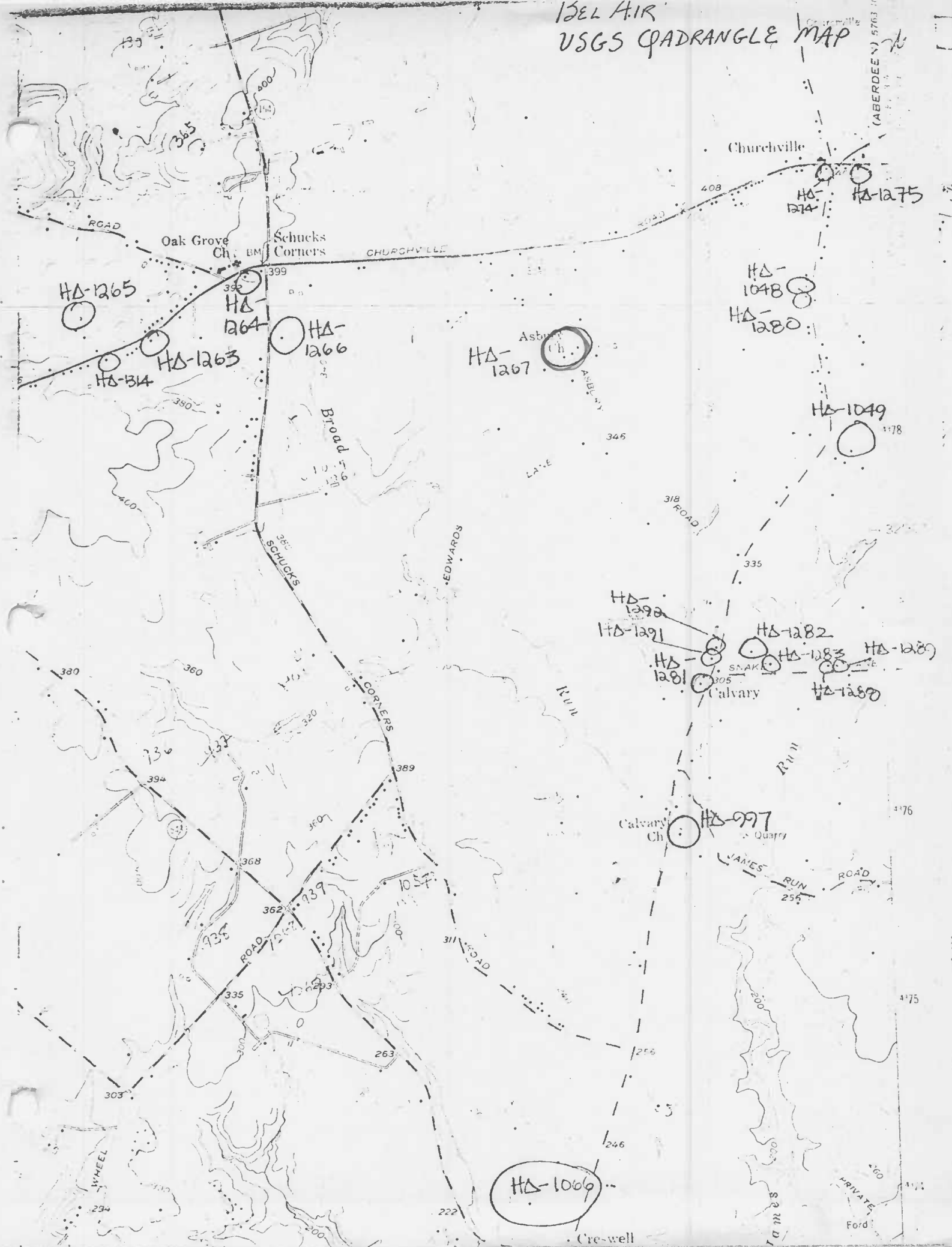
Maryland 21014

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

(ABERDEEN) 5763





Asbury M. E. Church Sunday School HA-1267  
Churchville, Maryland 21028  
Natalie Shivers  
June, 1979  
Northeast





Asbury M. E. Church  
Churchville, Maryland 21028

HA- 1267

Natalie Shivers  
June, 1979  
Southeast